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Message Text

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52
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 OMB-01

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R 191250 Z MAY 73
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 159
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR
ALL NATO CAPITALS 2963

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2467

E. O. 11652: GDS 12/31/79
TAGS: OCON, NATO
SUBJECT: JUNE 1973 MINISTERIAL MEETINGS- CLOSER NATO- SPAIN RELATIONS

REF: A. USNATO 2124
B. USNATO 5390, DEC 14, 1972 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT SECRETARIES ROGERS AND SCHLESINGER PURSUE SUBJECT AT FORTHCOMING MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE 1971 SPRING MINISTERIALS BOTH SECRETARIES ROGERS AND LAIRD MADE STATEMENTS WHICH SOUGHT TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF NATO GOVERNMENTS FOR SPAIN' S CLOSER MILITARY RELATIONS WITH NATO. DURING THE DECEMBER 1972 MINISTERIALS, SECRETARIES ROGERS AND LAIRD AGAIN URGED ALLIES TO DEVELOP CLOSER MILITARY COORDINATION AND PLANNING WITH THE SPANISH.
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2. ONE OF THE ACTIONS RECOMMENDED IN THE NOVEMBER 1971 NSC UNDERSECRETARIES COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE SPANISH ROLE IN WESTERN DEFENSE WAS A PORT VISIT TO SPAIN BY THE NAVAL ON-

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CALL FORCE MEDITERRANEAN. AS WASHINGTON IS WELL AWARE, SUCH A VISIT WAS RECENTLY DISAPPROVED BY THE DPC (REF A).

3. WHEN THE DPC CONSIDERED THIS MATTER ON MAY 2, 1973, I EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THIS MODEST STEP, AND I SERVED NOTICE THAT THE US PLANNED TO RETURN TO THE SUBJECT IN THE BELIEF THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE CONTINUING STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF SPAIN IN SOME TANGIBLE WAY.

4. WASHINGTON MAY RECALL THAT MISSION SUGGESTED LAST DECEMBER THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING THIS QUESTION TO MINISTERIAL SESSION (REF B). CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN RAISED BY THE US IN PREVIOUS MINISTERIALS, AND CONSIDERING THE DPC' S RECENT ACTION, I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO PURSUE THE ISSUE IN BOTH THE FORTHCOMING NAC AND DPC MINISTERIALS.

5. RATHER THAN UNDERTAKING ANY SPECIFIC NEW NATO- SPAIN INITIATIVES IN THOSE FORA, I RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE TAKE NOTE OF THE RECENT DPC ACTION AND ELABORATE ON THE US/ NATO STAKE IN SPAIN. THE THRUST SHOULD BE TOWARDS EXPLAINING THE US RATIONALE AND ALLAYING ANY FEARS THAT THE US IS ADVOCATING NATO MEMBERSHIP FOR SPAIN AT THIS TIME. I WOULD FURTHER SUGGEST THAT THE SECRETARIES' STATEMENTS BE INCLUDED IN THEIR MAJOR INTERVENTIONS.
RUMSFELD

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SECDEF INFO MADRID
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
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